BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF C

Order Instituting Rulemaking Concerning Relationship Between California Energy Utilities and Their Holding Companies and Non-Regulated Affiliates 11-06-06 02:54 PM Rulemaking 05-10-030 (Filed October 27, 2005)

REPLY COMMENTS OF THE GREENLINING INSTITUTE

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On October 27, Greenlining filed its opening comments supporting the proposed decision. On October 27, the joint utilities, represented by So Cal Edison, filed their response to the proposed order. The utility respondents stated unequivocal support for General Order 77-M. They stated "Respondents support the proposed changes to General Order 77-L as codified in new General Order 77-M.

Respondents, however, request one minor modification, which Greenlining accepts. They would like to file their annual report with an auditor's letter on May 31 rather than March 31 in order to allow sufficient time to obtain the independent audit. This is reasonable.

It should also be noted that Greenlining, in its opening comments (pp. 6-7), stated that it had no objection to eliminating reporting of salaries below a \$250,000 base salary. Greenlining also stated that it had no objection to the utilities' suggestion at the hearing that there should be inflation adjustments. Greenlining, in its comments, suggest an inflation adjustment such as from \$250,000 to \$300,000 whenever inflation is increased in aggregate by 20%. This would allow adjustments every five to seven years.

<u>Independent Study on Who Assumes the Cost of Top Executive Compensation</u>

Greenlining's Opening Comments (pp. 4-6) urge a study on who actually bears the cost of top level executive compensation (shareholders or ratepayers) and that such a study be ordered after a final decision is reached herein or alternatively in upcoming rate proceedings. The utility respondents are apparently silent on this. Related to this is the November 2, 2006 *Financial Times* article stating that

executive compensation consultants such as those hired by the respondents improperly inflate CEO

compensation packages.

See Financial Times, November 2, 2006, in which the Chairman and CEO of General Electric is

quoted as urging corporate leaders in the U.S. to ensure that their pay does not dramatically outstrip that

of their senior managers. This Chairman and CEO, Jeffrey Immelt, also urged them to limit the influence

of compensation consultants [such as those used by the three energy utilities] As a result, a coalition of

pension funds with \$850 billion in assets sent letters of warning to the 25 largest U.S. corporations.

Commissioner Bohn's Comments in Context of Illinois Election on Executive Compensation at Utilities

Commissioner Bohn raised the issue of executive compensation being directly related to

ratepayer contributions through value of stock options. On Tuesday, November 7, according to the New

York Times ("Executive Pay Becomes Political", November 5, 2006), Illinois voters will be voting in

effect on executive compensation at Illinois' two major utility companies. Rates are set to rise by 25% –

75% and, according to the New York Times, "will result in fatter pay for those running the utilities, even

as the very same increases lighten the wallets of consumers."

As the article states, the utility executives stand to enjoy stock option gains "not because they

have worked managerial magic on their bottom lines, but simply because consumers are paying more for

electricity. Opponents of the rate increase have shrewdly framed the situation in these terms."

Dated: November 6, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Robert Gnaizda

Robert Gnaizda

Chris Vaeth

The Greenlining Institute

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a copy of:

REPLY COMMENTS OF THE GREENLINING INSTITUTE

on all known parties to the above-captioned proceedings by mailing a properly addressed copy by first-class mail with postage prepaid, transmitting a facsimile copy, and/or transmitting an electronic copy to each party named in the official service list as maintained on the California Public Utilities Commission's web page.

Executed on November 6, 2006 at Berkeley, California.

/s/ Chris Vaeth
Chris Vaeth

SERVICE LIST

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